

Energy and Technology Committee Public Hearing, February 3, 2011

RE: HB 6249: An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects until the Adoption of Regulations

Testimony of Town of Bethany First Selectman Derrylyn Gorski:

Mr. Chairman, Madam Chair and members of the committee. Good afternoon. My name is Derrylyn Gorski and I am the First Selectman of the Town of Bethany and I am here on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission of Bethany to support HB 6249. As you know, there are currently applications for wind turbine projects in Prospect and in Colebrook. Prospect is a neighboring town and several Bethany residents are within the visibility and arguably the noise zone of the Prospect project. As I inquired about this project I was surprised at the height of the turbines and dismayed to find that the State of Connecticut has no regulations concerning the development and operation of industrial wind turbines.

Please do not misunderstand our concern. The Town of Bethany is a Connecticut Clean Energy Community and we have earned 16 kW of free solar panels for our municipal buildings. We support clean energy. However, we firmly believe that regulations are necessary to protect public health and safety.

The Public Service Commission in Wisconsin, a state with almost 20 MW of wind power, will be increasing setbacks from 1000 ft to 1250 ft effective in March and Wisconsin's Gov. Walker is proposing an increase to 1800 ft.

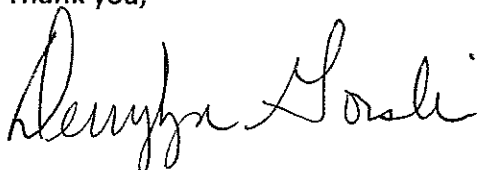
Canada has over 1800 MW of wind power. In a case currently before the Ontario Superior Court a resident contends that when Canada's Ministry of Environment established setbacks of 550 meters (1800 feet) between 40-storey industrial wind turbines and nearby homes, the setback distance was arbitrary—that it was established without a scientific or medical foundation.

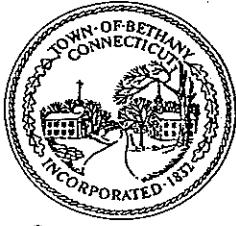
Oregon has about 1200 wind turbines. In October, 2010, the Oregon Division of Public Health embarked on a public health assessment of wind farms and is expected to issue a report on wind health in March.

The fact that governments that have years of experience with wind turbines are re-examining their regulations strongly indicates the need for regulations in Connecticut that will protect public health and public safety.

The elected officials of the Town of Bethany commend the Energy and Technology Committee for raising this bill and we strongly support it.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrylyn Gorski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Derrylyn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gorski".



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PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

TOWN OF BETHANY
Town Hall - 40 Peck Road
Bethany, Connecticut 06524-3338
Tel. (203) 393-2100 Ext. 115
Fax: (203) 393-0821

February 3, 2011

Derrylyn Gorski, First Selectwoman
Town of Bethany
40 Peck Road
Bethany, CT 06524

SUBJECT: **Bethany Planning and Zoning Commission support of Raised Bill No. 6249**

Dear First Selectwoman Gorski:

This letter is to serve as notification that at the Planning and Zoning Commission Regular Meeting of February 2, 2011, the Commission voted in **unanimous support** of the following resolution:

Whereas, Derrylyn Gorski, First Selectwoman, came before the Commission at its regular meeting of February 2, 2011, to discuss *Raised Bill No. 6249 – An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects Until the Adoption of Regulation*;

Whereas, the *Bill* requires:

- (a) The Connecticut Siting Council, in consultation with the Department of Public Utility Control and the Department of Environmental Protection, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 of the general statutes, concerning the siting of wind turbines. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to, (1) a consideration of (A) setbacks, including considerations of tower height and distance from neighboring properties; (B) flicker; (C) a requirement for the developer to decommission the facility at the end of its useful life; (d) different requirements for projects of different sizes; (E) ice throw; (f) blade shear; and (G) impact on natural resources; and (2) a requirement for a public hearing for wind turbine projects.
- (b) The Connecticut Siting Council shall temporarily suspend action on any application for siting of a wind turbine until the adoption of regulations pursuant to the subsection (a) of this section. For any wind turbine application submitted to the siting council on or before the effective date of this section, the siting council shall resume consideration of such application upon adoption of such regulations and shall allow such applicant the opportunity to satisfy the regulation requirements.

Whereas, the Commission discussed the matter and **resolved that** it was the consensus of the Commission to support the *Raised Bill*.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon J. Huxley, Chairman
For the Planning and Zoning Commission
SJH:arm